

The Caisson Corner

Camp Liberty, Iraq

February, 2006

From the Battalion Commander

Greetings from Camp Liberty, Iraq. I truly hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Caisson Corner. This issue features a new look as well as articles from each company and staff section. As you will read our battalion has been extremely active in "Supporting the Fight". The month of January ended with the uncasing of the Battalion Colors. An uncasing ceremony is a long continued tradition that symbolizes the units assumption of a new mission. It is hard to believe that a little over 7 months ago we uncased the unit colors for the first time back at Fort Hood, TX and now again here in Baghdad. That is a truly a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our soldiers and



LTC Barry A. Diehl
589th BSB Battalion
Commander at Battalion uncasing ceremony with PFC Hemmer,

their families. I know it took a lot of sacrifice from both to take a unit from existing only on paper to engaged in combat in only 10 months. I am truly proud of all involved.

Since our deployment we have assumed several missions supporting 4ID units. The soldiers of A Company operate a daily transportation mission that delivers much needed

repair parts to local units. A Company also operates a ammunition holding area and assists in the operation of several supply activities. B Company has established a great motor pool and daily performs critical maintenance repairs on a wide variety of Division equipment. The Bandits are also very busy fabricating several safety devices that add additional protection to vehicles that routinely travel the Baghdad streets. The Headquarters company provides expert command and control to our convoy patrols.

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The 589th BSB Battalion Color guard prepares for the Battalion uncasing ceremony on January 21st, 2006. Pictured from left to right are PFC Smith, SSG Bright, PFC Stahnke, and SGT Coats

From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Pride and Discipline— those two words describe the Soldiers of the 589th BSB. I have been very proud of each and everyone of them as they execute complex missions in a deployed environment. These are the type of Soldiers we need in today's Army and you are the type of families that make this unit so great. That is why I am so pleased at the number of re-

enlistments we have conducted since deployed. I know it is a family decision and I can't thank you enough for "Supporting the Fight". Our Soldiers have great opportunities toady for continued service, not to mention the up to \$22,000 in bonus cash that is available. Over thirty of our fine troopers have taken advantage of the tax free bonus while deployed but most im-

portantly have chosen a noble profession defending a worthy cause.



CSM Eric L Taylor
589th BSB Battalion
Commander Sergeant Major at Battalion uncasing ceremony

-CSM Eric L. Taylor

Inside this issue:

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- Company News
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Check us out on the Web @

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/Units/Firesbde/589SB/589nl.html>

Visit the 4ID Website for up-to-date information and news@

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/>

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From the Battalion Commander-Cont from Page 1

Our battle staff works around the clock to ensure that every convoy is fully prepared and combat ready to accomplish their mission. All of the other Headquarters elements provide daily support to our Soldiers in a variety of different areas. We remain mission focused, but we always find time to take

a little break and enjoy some of the numerous MWR activities present here at Camp Liberty. We all enjoyed the Super Bowl-GO STEELERS!!!

As always my heart felt thanks goes out to you-our families who provide unwavering support. We have received several banners and treats for

Valentines day that are proudly displayed in our unit areas. I encourage you to stay active in your FRG as a conduit for news and events. Again thank you for your support. You have every reason to be truly proud of our Soldiers. IRON CAISSONS... "Supporting the Fight"

-LTC Barry A. Diehl

Headquarters Company "Hammer Heads"

HHC has settled in here on FOB Liberty and we have adjusted quite nicely to our new way of life. I want to say a special "Thank You!" to Mrs. Kecia Freschi for all her hard work trying to get all the soldiers out the door and their families in the door to the FRG family. Thank you for being there during these times. Also, a big thank you to the FRG for sending us the beautifully made Valentines Day Candy display

We truly appreciate it. We also want to welcome the new soldiers and their families

that are joining us. Welcome! and we are glad to have you.



HHC Soldiers, SGT Pollard and SGT Stewart receive a class on the M2 .50 caliber machine gun from SPC O'Dell

HHC has been keeping busy and staying focused on the mission. The morale is high and we have a lot to be thankful for. We spent Christmas together and brought in the New Year doing what we do best... Supporting The Fight!

We have come a long way and continue to get better every day. We truly appreciate all the packages and letters that we receive from our families back home. It makes this time go by a lot easier. Everyone in HHC continues to work hard every day. The ISG and I want to say thank you to everyone for all your hard work and dedication. We appreciate each and every one of you.

-CPT Annette M. Whittenberger

A Company "Rough Riders"

Greetings from Iraq! Our journey thus far, has presented new and exciting challenges for us. The Rough Riders continue to excel and accomplish all tasks set before us. Believe it or not, the quality life is sound here, considering being deployed. Our Soldiers are very

appreciative of the support we receive from the support agencies and from our Family Readiness Group. We are also grateful for the projects that the Rough Rider FRG sent to us. Every Soldier in the unit looked for their name on our two banners, which are posted

in the unit Orderly Room. I should have had a camera to capture the looks on their faces.

Our training

at Fort Hood and Kuwait has prepared us for the missions at hand. We are confident and will do our part to support the Nation's War on Terrorism. You should feel proud of your family members! I could not ask for greater group of Soldiers to Command. Soldiers continue to re-enlist for humongous, tax-free bonuses and promotions remain plentiful for our troops. Continue to send letters and e-mails to your family members. This will keep our Soldiers encouraged more than you know! Continue to keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in ours.

One Team, One Fight... Rough Riders

-CPT SAMUEL A. BURNS

Operational Security (OPSEC) Bulletin

Remember our Soldiers can't talk about certain things. Our family members are reminded not to discuss details, specific locations of Soldiers or units, or timelines. The enemy uses unsecured cell phones and the internet to actively target forces in Iraq. Help us stay safe.



A Company Soldiers load barriers on Palletized Loading Systems in preparation for an upcoming mission

B Company "Bandits"

B Company "Bandits" have been performing outstanding feats with great enthusiasm. We had the Assistant Division Commander for Support, BG Halverson, come and visit our motor pool where he reinforced the importance of our mission, to keep the equipment running and on the road so that our brothers in arms could go out and execute missions. Our Armament shop is busy repairing weapons as well as teaching other unit level maintainers how to better maintain their own weapons. The Service and Recovery section has designed and built several modifications to vehicles that increase their survivability out on the road. S&R Soldiers have also made several trips out side the FOB to provide on the spot maintenance and vehicle recovery to our convoy patrols. The Communications and Electronics section has been busy securing much needed equipment so they can better perform their mission. C&E is indispensable in maintaining customers digital systems, night vision equipment, and radios. Our Ground Support Equipment

repairers established and maintained all the unit's power generation requirements and have lots to keep them busy with several types of specialty equipment to maintain. Our largest platoon the Maintenance Platoon is extremely busy and performing well above expectations. They established a fully functional motor pool out a simple gravel lot and have been operating non stop as they fix

non mission capable equipment, as well as, performing scheduled maintenance to keep the fleet up and running. We have had to get some great training from subject matter experts as we learn to maintain some of our new trucks. The Soldiers of B Company are always ready to learn so they can better "Support the Fight".

Reenlistments and promotions are steady and always a great way to reward Soldiers. Congratulations to SGT Thompson and SPC White who reenlisted. Bandit Soldiers work hard every day and their hard work does not go unrecognized. Several battalion commanders coins have been presented and more are on the way for our most deserving Soldiers. We wish to thank our families for their continued support during our rotation. Our Soldiers have begun to take Environmental and Morale leave



B Company Soldiers perform maintenance on a Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) in the motor pool

ALOC S1/S4

are just a few of S1's daily duties. We are proud to welcome PFC Stahnke and SGT Sanchez to the team, they both have made an immediate positive impact. Since establishing operations the section has processed over 40 evaluations and 50 promotions. We hope the families back home have benefited from our dedication to them and our Soldiers.

The Battalion S4 has been busy completing supply transactions to distribute property throughout the Battalion where it's needed most. Item procurement for the Up-armored utility vehicle, also known as the M1114, has been a top priority. It is essential that the M1114s that will perform the role of security gun trucks for all combat logistics patrols in the battalion are completely combat capable and have all tools necessary to meet escalation of force requirements. No Soldier in the 589th Brigade Support Battalion will roll outside the gates without full armor protection and equipment needed to conduct his/her mission. In addition to these actions, the battalion S4 is ordering equipment and receiving it in a rapid manner. We are using this opportunity to try and correct as many equipment shortages as we can so that we are better off once returning to home station. In addition to increasing internal capabilities, the S4 shop has been crucial in transferring property from 589th to other brigades to assist them in their missions.

SPC Yantis of the S4 Supply Section receives a Brigade Coin for Excellence from the BDE CSM, Gil Canuela for her work in distributing equipment to Soldiers. SFC Parks her supervisor looks on with approval



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and everybody should get the opportunity at some point during our deployment to visit loved ones. The command would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted us and made our deployment as easy as possible. Special thanks to our FRG and to the Rear Detachment who are providing us great service from back at Fort Hood.

-CPT Brett Wheeler

S6 Section

The "Voice of the Iron Caissons" is the S6 staff section who is responsible for the battalions communications. S6 is just full of surprises, intelligent personnel, and most definitely some hard workers. These Soldiers collectively became the first in the entire division to establish 100% connectivity of all the Army Battle Command Systems equipment. Recognized for their hard work were SPC Kortabani and PFC Jimenez who both received coins from the battalion commander. SPC Kortabani is also a part of an elite team called the Personnel Security Detachment. These soldiers venture out on convoys to secure the mission and its personnel. This young talented soldier is also the only one in the entire battalion to speak Arabic which would make him the interpreter for the Battalion Commander. Everyone gets excited to see PFC Hemmer. He doubles as the battalion's mail clerk. SGT Stewart not only works to keep the battalion talking and those emails home coming but she also volunteers her time teaching aerobics at the MWR center here on Camp Liberty.

Postal Information: Sending Mail to Deployed Soldiers

PFC Jones, Paul (Include Soldiers Rank, Last, First Name)

A Co, 589th BSB, 4ID (Soldiers Company, 589th BSB, 4ID)

Unit # 43087

APO AE 09344-3087



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Support Operations Office (SPO)

Iron Caisson's.....We hope you'll enjoy the first SPO update feature of the Caisson Corner family newsletter. Since our deployment we have proven that the long hours of preparation and training endured at Fort Hood certainly paid off. Upon arrival in Kuwait, the SPO section worked diligently to ensure that the Fires Brigade was logistically postured and ready to accomplish its mission. A critical mission for the SPO shop in Kuwait was to establish maintenance and supply accounts with the various support units in Kuwait. Our Maintenance Officer, CPT Bird, was responsible for making this happen. He also conducted the coordination to obtain repair parts and tools to enable Bravo Company mechanics to prepare our trucks and weapons for the long journey north to Iraq. The Combat Service Support Automation Management Office (CSSAMO) section also had a critical role to fill while in Kuwait. They conducted a "STAMIS Gunnery" which ensured all of the brigade's supply automation equipment operational. Simultaneously, all members of the SPO section continued to train and plan for the mission we would soon assume in Baghdad.

Following three weeks of preparation in Kuwait, we began the movement to

S2/3- Operations

The Operation cell of the 589th BSB has picked up the pace; planning and executing multiple missions outside the base complex at one time. At the same time, we continue to plan training for the Soldiers in the Battalion in order to stay proficient in the critical skills needed for the Soldiers

to stay current in their basic skills and combat specific skills. Training conducted includes: MTV driver's training, Weapon safety, Vehicle rollover drills, Anti-fratricide training and Digital systems training. We have had several Soldiers involved in missions delivering food, repair parts, and fuel to other Divisional units in the Baghdad area. We have also executed missions to deliver barriers to Iraqi Checkpoints that will help protect the Iraqi Army and Iraq Police as they conduct operations.

On 25 January 06, PV2 Hinojosa became PFC Hinojosa. PFC Hinojosa represents the Intelligence section on the night shift helping to track our missions while PFC Carter works the day shift with CPT McHugh to plan and resource the missions with the best information possible for mission success. Their hard work and dedication is helping the Battalion achieve its goals. We're looking forward to even more support missions as we prepare to broaden our support base to include more customer units.



The 589th BSB S2/3 Operations Section. Pictured from left to right are CPT Madera, SSG Lowther, SFC Faust, CPT Ortiz, PFC Fish, CPT McHugh, and PFC Carter

Baghdad. While most of us were fortunate enough to enjoy a short flight from Kuwait to the Baghdad International Airport, some members of the section were responsible for providing security to the trucks transporting our equipment. Four members of the SPO team were picked to execute the security mission: SSG Parks, SSG Bright, SGT Tackett, and PFC Hicks. Each conducted additional training while in Kuwait to prepare for the three-day convoy to Baghdad.

Once closed in Camp Liberty the Iron Caissons had to build our operations from the ground up. We spent the first few days setting up our work areas and getting to know our way around the base and learning what the base had to offer. We also met and introduced ourselves to several new customers. Because of our capabilities, the 589th is providing support to several additional units located on the base in addition to our Fires Brigade and 4th Infantry Division Headquarters customers from Fort Hood. As the SPO Plans Officer, CPT Bishop is responsible for working with our customer base to determine support requirements for current and future missions. The SPO Shop is always up to a challenge and were tested in providing support to portions of the Fires Brigade in areas far north and far west of Baghdad. CPT Bird, SSG Bright, and SPC Shermikas have spent many

long days and nights making sure our units, both inside and outside of Baghdad, receive the repair parts necessary to keep their equipment operational.

The CSSAMO section, led by CW2 Owens,

with SFC Hall, SPC Eddington, PFC Huey, PFC Miller, PFC Justman, and PFC Stringfield, has been extremely busy. Since arriving in Baghdad, they have repaired over 60 computers and established a supply and maintenance automation network allowing our units to order supplies and manage the maintenance of equipment through a satellite based system similar to wireless internet.

Our SPO transportation section with CPT Freschi, SFC Watson, SSG Jules, and SSG Dunaway have also been busy from day one; planning the movement of the brigade's equipment from Kuwait to Baghdad; getting trained on the set-up and operation of several new types of satellite-based convoy tracking systems that allow us to see and communicate with our Soldiers during convoys, regardless of how far away they are; and coordinating for several missions to deliver supplies and equipment to our customers. One such mission involved the movement of several hundred concrete barriers to various locations across Baghdad to increase the security of the city.

And we can't forget about our medical section, or "The Community," as we like to call them. 1LT Kuhn and SSG Parks have been busy scheduling first aid training and ensuring all of our Soldiers' vaccinations are current. 2LT McClendon and SGT Pollard are responsible for ordering all the medical supplies for the brigade. Right now they are busy ordering supplies to get ready for the hot temperatures we will soon see. We also welcomed a newcomer to the battalion, SGT Trevizo. He is a patient administrator working with 2LT McClendon at the base medical clinic.

All-in-all, we are busy, but we can see that we are making a difference for the people of Iraq and that helps the time go by a little bit faster. Lastly, we would like to wish our family and friends a Happy Valentine's Day! Stay tuned for more from the Iron Caissons Support Operations Office....Support the Fight!



Pictured from left to right CW2 Owens, CPT Bishop, SGT Tackett, PFC Huey, MAJ Bertulis, MSG Johnson, CPT Bird, 2LT McClendon, SSG Jules, SSG Parks, and SFC Watson